

Water Quality Restoration: Partnerships Are The Answer

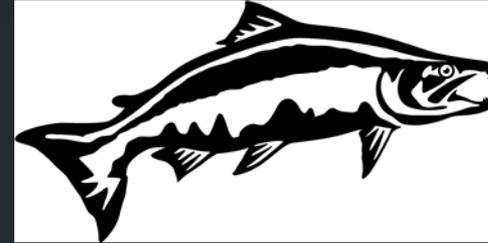
(But They Don't Just Happen)



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Presentation Overview:

- **Context of BLM Involvement in our local Partnership – why is it important?**
- **Discussion of Legacy Impacts**
- **Moving Forward from Here**
- **If time allows, a summary of some keys to Partnership success**

The BLM Mission:



- Is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield.

In Western Oregon:

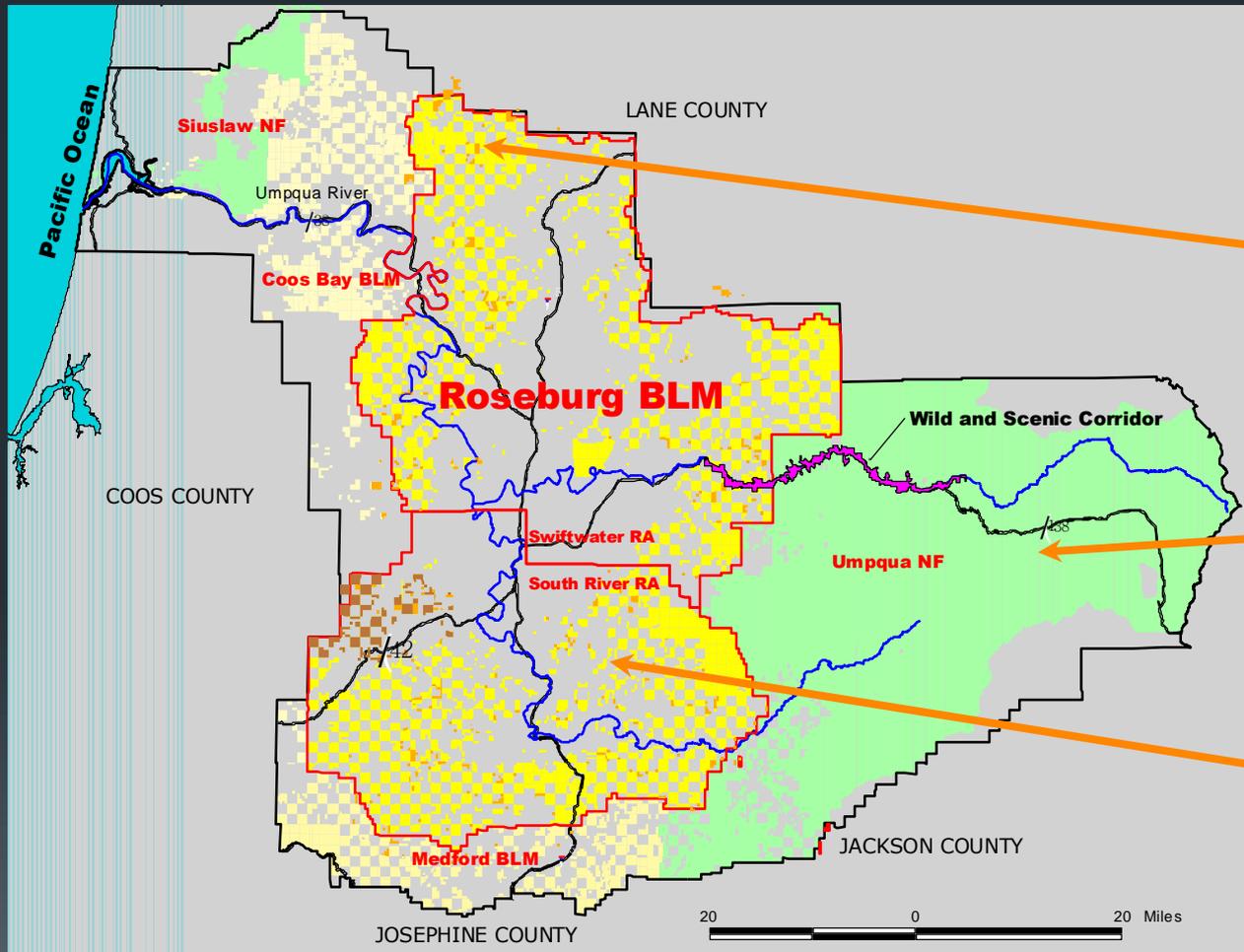
O&C Grant Lands – to be managed for permanent forest production, and the timber thereon shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principal of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities.

Translation:

- We offer timber for sale in a sustainable way,
- We process mining claim permits, pipeline and powerline ROW's
- We offer some limited cattle grazing,
- We provide numerous recreational opportunities (trails, campgrounds, fishing, hunting, whitewater rafting, rockhounding, driving, photography, etc.),
- We maintain and restore healthy aquatic habitats,
- We maintain and restore healthy terrestrial habitats,
- We monitor fish and wildlife populations,

With no controversy whatsoever!

Complexity of “Social” Landscape

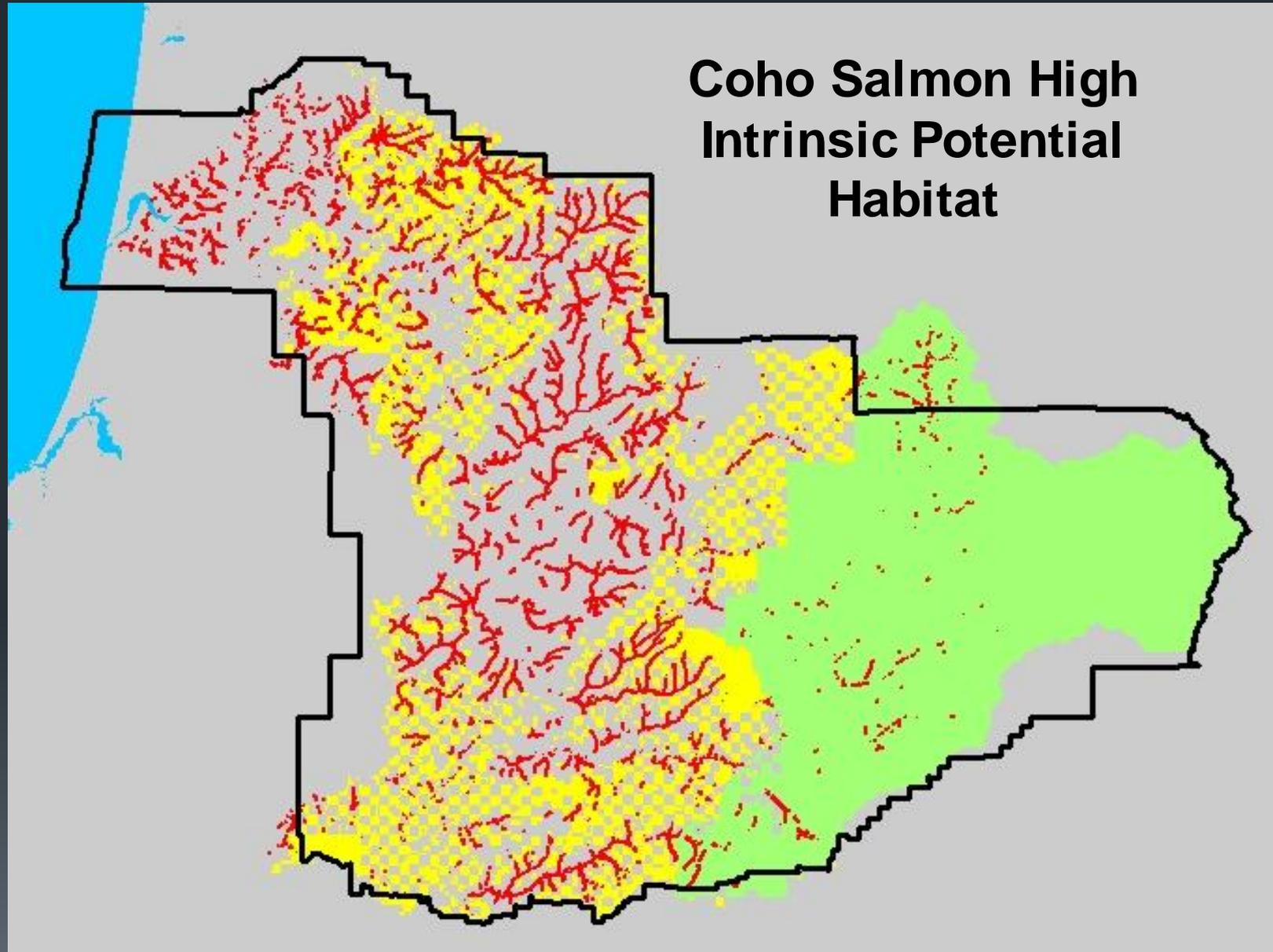


Several Owners:
Moderate
Complexity

Single Owner:
Low Complexity

Many Diverse
Owners: High
Complexity

Why is this important?



A Review of the Facts:

- In Western Oregon, the BLM manages a checkerboard land base. That creates challenges!
- Gravity is the law – and water does not respect the checkerboard boundaries!
- The BLM CAN NOT effectively manage aquatic habitat without involving the neighboring landowners!
- **Our key partners are a critical nexus to our neighbors – and can strongly influence the success (or failure) of our efforts!**

Surprisingly, not everyone likes the Government!



■ **Common Land Owner Beliefs in the Umpqua Basin** *(from Habron, 1999)*

- They like their independence
- They are FIRM believers in Private Property Rights
- They believe in Reduced Government
- They believe the Environment is Resilient
- They believe in Conservation

I'm with the government, and I'm here to help!



**Our
partnerships
help prevent
this!!**

Why the need for aquatic restoration??

Legacy Effects



Legacy Impacts Cont.



Legacy Water Quality Issues



How Do We Address Legacy Impacts?



New Focus on Improving Infrastructure

Before

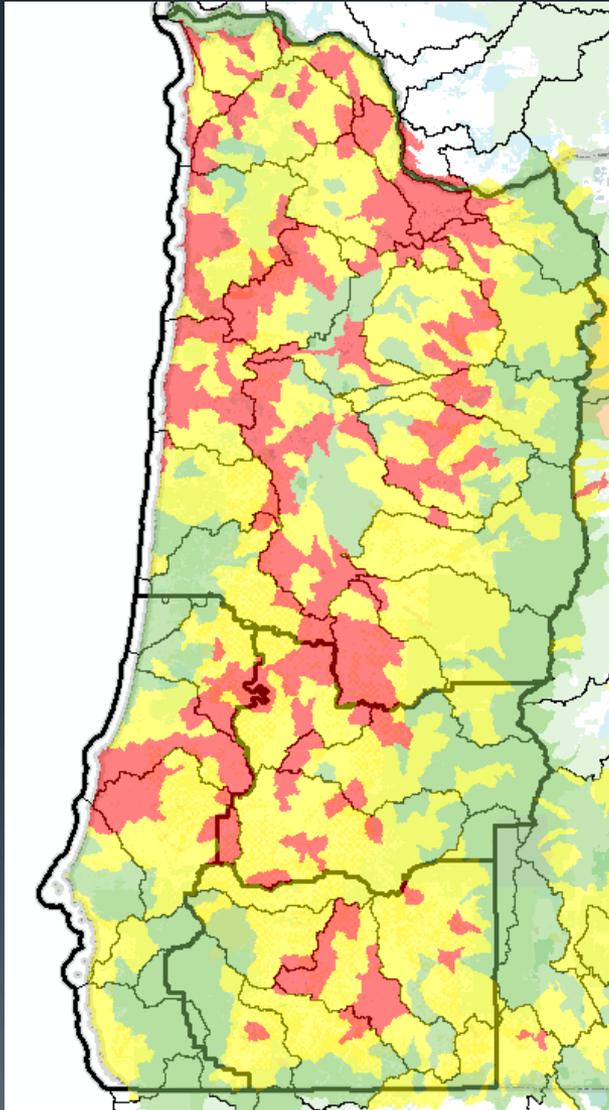


After

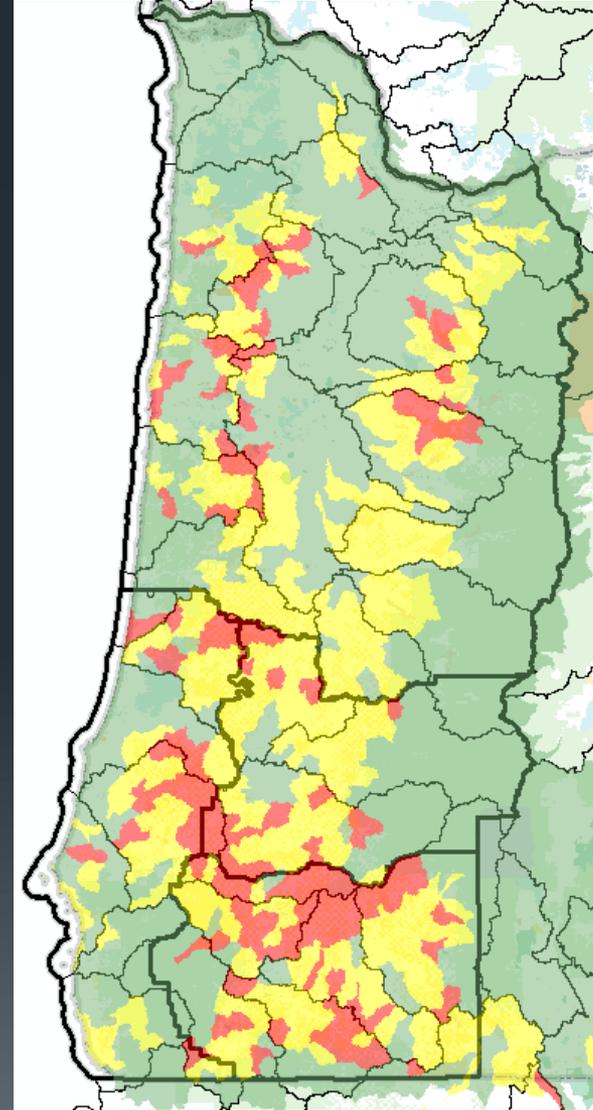


What About Other Roads? Use Road Density Metrics?

Overall Road
Density – all owners

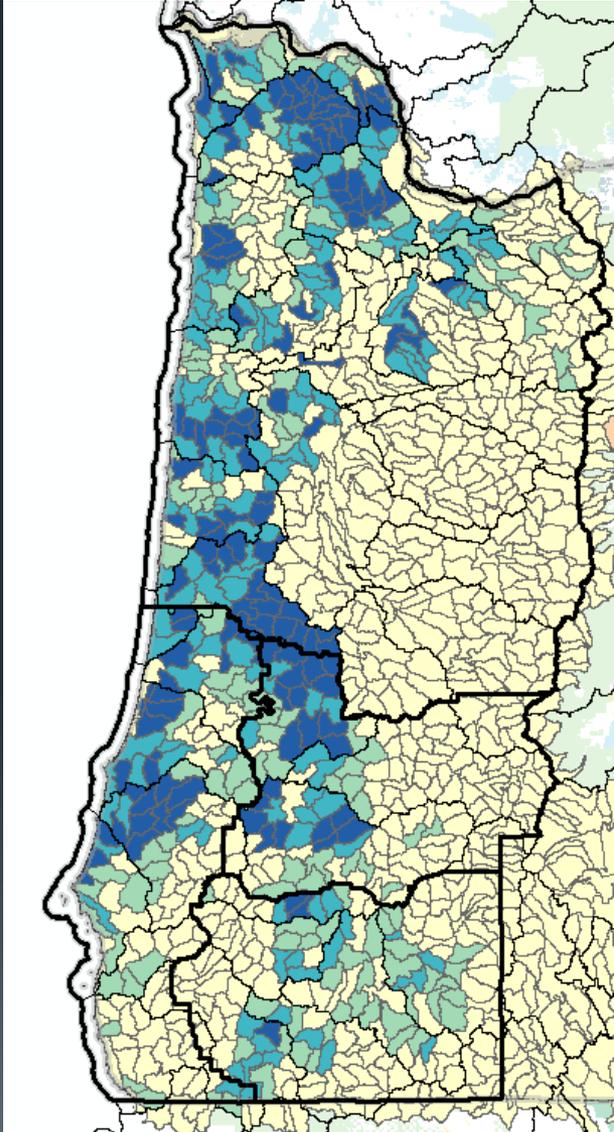


Riparian Road Density – BLM
Roads ($\leq 200'$ f/streams)

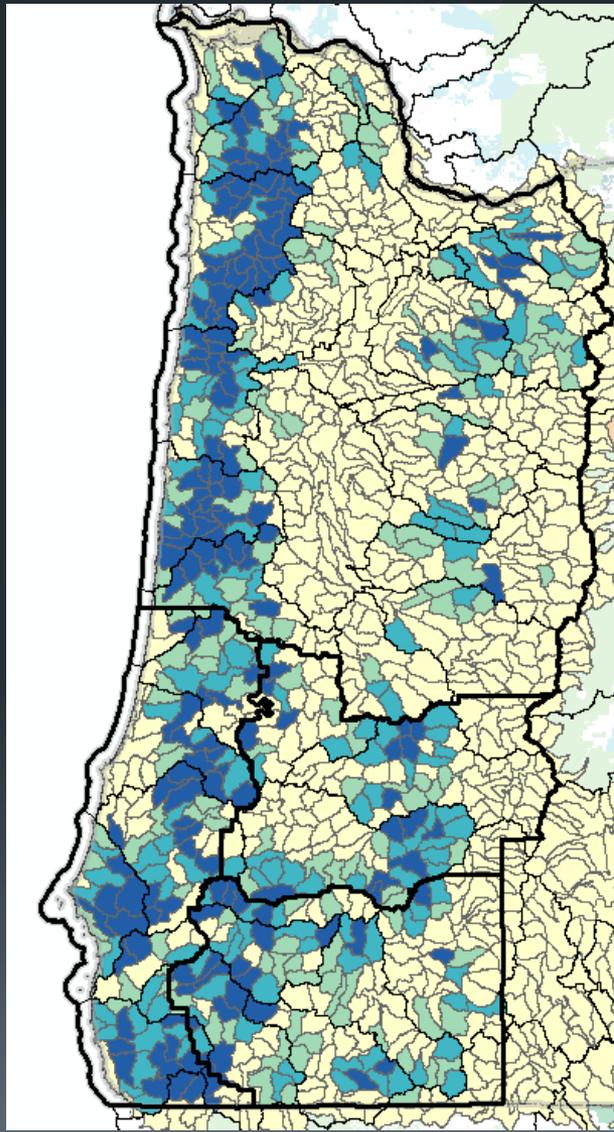


Can We Combine With Fish Habitat Metrics?

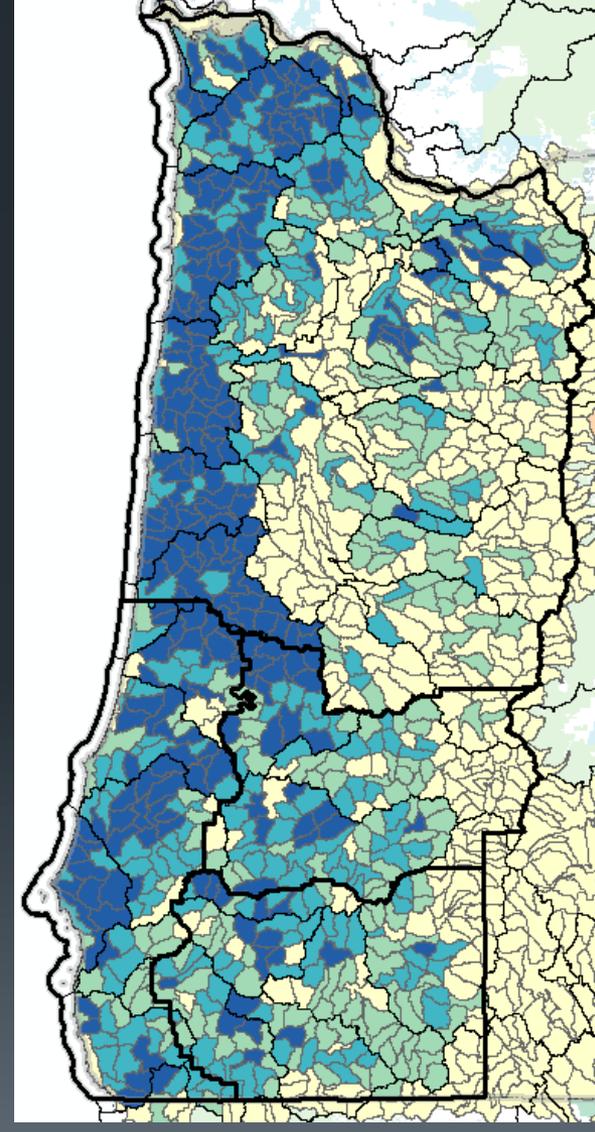
Coho Salmon HIP Density



Steelhead HIP Density



Combined HIP Density
(Coho, Chinook, Steelhead)

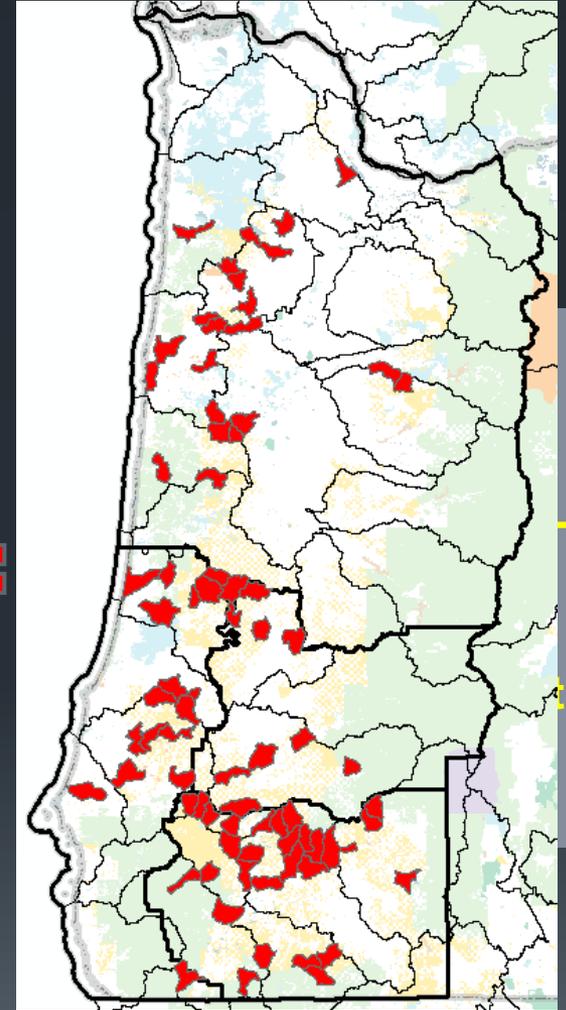
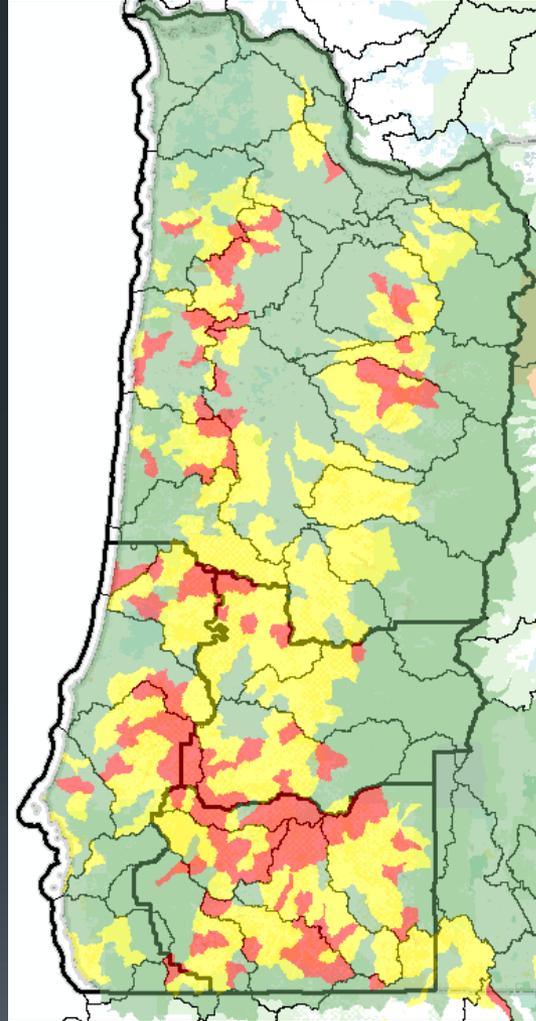
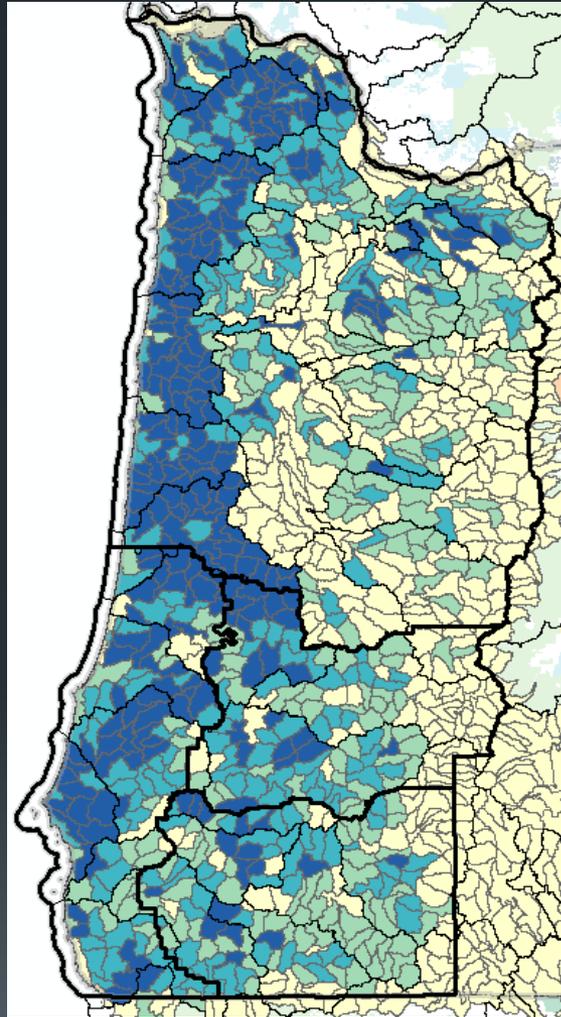


Combined Road Metrics with Fish Habitat Metrics

Combined HIP Density
(Coho, Chinook, Steelhead)

Riparian Road Density – BLM
Roads ($\leq 200'$ f/streams)

H/M Combo HIP, High
BLM Rip Rd Density



Does this make sense? What else should we incorporate?

What other metrics should we consider?

- Which watersheds will have the most timber harvest (and haul) under the new RMP's?
- Which roads are absolutely imperative to keep open? Access to recreation sites, wildland fire access, private residences, other needs?
- Should Drinking Water Source Watersheds get special emphasis?
- Has there been a recent (<20 years old) high intensity fire within the watershed?
- Proximity to ESA-listed Fish?
- What else?

Have We Stopped the Damage?

- **New BLM RMP's in 2016, include:**
 - Riparian Reserves on ALL Streams, with more conservative (i.e. protective) management than in the NWFP
 - Continued Emphasis on Aquatic Restoration
 - Protective Aquatic Management Direction, such as:
 - *Suspend commercial road use where the road surface is deteriorating due to vehicular rutting or standing water, or where turbid runoff is likely to reach stream channels*
 - *Implement road improvements, storm proofing, maintenance and decommissioning to reduce or eliminate chronic sediment inputs to stream channels and waterbodies.*
 - *Design culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings for a 100-year flood event.*
 - *Decommission roads that are no longer needed for resource management and are at a risk of failure or are contributing sediment to streams, consistent with valid existing rights.*

It's about more than fish



It's about human uses too!



Partnerships. So What?!

- Many of you in this room are involved in restoration work – so this is not new.
- **But, how many of you would like assistance with:**
 - Finding money for your restoration projects?
 - Gaining permission to work on adjacent private lands?
 - Increasing your staff to help implement projects?
 - Finding “match” to help in your grant applications?
 - Technical expertise to help design and implement the projects?
 - Speeding up and simplifying the contracting process?
 - ESA consultation or permitting issues?
 - Community support for your projects?
 - Marketing your work to your managers or stakeholders?
- **And ultimately – how many of you trust your partners enough to hand over the keys to the project when necessary?**

That's What We Get Out of Our Partnership

So How Did This Partnership Thing Happen?



So How Did This Partnership Thing Really Happen?



- Years and Years at the Meeting Table – Together
- Started in the early 1990's, but really gained momentum in the early 2000's.
- Lots of Care and Feeding!
- Persevering through the hills and valleys that are inevitable

Some of the Keys to Success:



Be The Partner You Would Like To See –

- Show up to the meetings regularly
- Respect all partners
- Bring value to the group – your expertise, funding, willingness to help, permitting/consultation assistance, etc.
- Understand and be sensitive to the social and ecological landscape
- Share the lead role with others

Check your ego at the door

- Be open and inquisitive about the techniques used by others
- Talk about the work as a partnership – not us vs them
- Be Humble – anyone who claims they have not experienced a project failure has not been doing this long enough.

Keys to Success – continued:

Bring in Many Sources of Expertise

- There is always room to learn from Fish Biologists, Hydrologists, Other Agencies, Watershed Councils, SWCD's, Consultants, etc.
- More folks generate more enthusiasm – its infectious

Be Flexible – Anticipate Change

- Change is guaranteed – 100 year floods, partner flux, staffing changes, funding troubles, etc.
- Be OK with messy
- Be willing to compromise

Above All - Frequent, Open, and Clear Communication

It's Not All Roses and Rainbows - Some of the potential Barriers to Success:

A Lack of Management Support

- No-Brainer - without Management buy-in, you can't succeed
- Management concerned that Partnerships take time
- Management may not view Watershed Restoration as an agency priority



How do you get Management Buy-In?

- Take the time to inform management about what they are getting from the partnership – do a little marketing
- Encourage your partners to do the same
- This will trickle up – if you are a good partner and bringing value to your group - your managers will hear about it.
- In a well functioning partnership, doors will open that would have otherwise remained closed.

Barriers - continued



Staff Turnover

- Can be a huge momentum killer, so...Leave good tracks for those who come after you.
- If possible, try to connect with the new folks to emphasize the partnership, and to get them the key contact info they need.
- Encourage partners to go out of their way to include new staff
- Make sure new folks have an understanding of the history and importance of your partnership
- Because it takes a substantial amount of time and effort – and a new person might not focus his/her time there.

Is it Worth all the Time and Effort?



2010 Western Division AFS
Award of Excellence in Riparian Management



2011 Oregon AFS Fishery Team of
the Year Award



Roseburg BLM Fish Staff and partners displaying
the 2015 Riparian Challenge Award



Roseburg BLM Fish Staff and partners displaying the
2015 Fishery Team of the Year Award

Photo courtesy of Rich Grost



Questions?